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IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 31-34.

Add claims 35-47 as follows:

1-34. (canceled)

35. (new) A check processing apparatus comprising:

an image capture transport including (i) an image capture device for capturing images of physical checks, and (ii) a controller for providing information relating to physical checks which have been processed at the image capture transport;

an encoding transport including a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) encoder for encoding MICR codelines onto physical checks;

a first communication interface for (i) receiving information provided by the image capture transport, and (ii) wirelessly transmitting electronic messages based upon information received from the image capture transport;

a physical receptacle for (i) containing physical checks which have been processed at the image capture transport, and (ii) allowing the physical receptacle along with physical checks contained therein to be physically transported from the image capture transport to the encoding transport for encoding MICR codelines onto the physical checks at the encoding transport; and

an electronic label affixed to the physical receptacle and including (i) a physical display for displaying a visual message, (ii) a second communication interface for receiving electronic messages which have been wirelessly transmitted from the first communication interface, and (iii) a processor for causing the physical display to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the first communication interface so as to provide visual information which relates to at least some of the physical checks contained in the physical receptacle when the physical receptacle along with the physical checks contained therein are physically transported from the image capture transport to the encoding transport.

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36. (new) A check processing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the electronic label includes a first manually-operable button electrically coupled to the processor and for, when manually operated, directs the processor to cause the physical display to display information in sequential screens.

37. (new) A check processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the electronic label includes a second manually-operable button electrically coupled to the processor and for, when manually operated, allows an operator to send a signal to the first communication interface.

38. (new) A check processing apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the electronic label further includes an alerter electronically coupled to the processor and for, when driven by the processor, provides an audible alert signal.

39. (new) A check processing apparatus comprising:
a first check processing station including (i) a reader for reading magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codelines of physical checks, (ii) a controller for providing information relating to physical checks which have been processed, and (iii) a physical display for displaying information which relates to at least some of the physical checks which have been processed;

a first communication interface for (i) receiving information provided by the first check processing station, and (ii) wirelessly transmitting electronic messages based upon information received from the first check processing station;

a physical receptacle for (i) containing physical checks which have been processed at the first check processing station, and (ii) allowing the physical receptacle along with physical checks contained therein to be physically transported from the first check processing station to a second check processing station for further processing of the physical checks at the second check processing station; and

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an electronic label affixed to the physical receptacle and including (i) a physical display for displaying a visual message, (ii) a second communication interface for receiving electronic messages which have been wirelessly transmitted from the first communication interface, and (iii) a processor for causing the physical display of the electronic label to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the first communication interface to provide visual information which relates to at least some of the physical checks contained in the physical receptacle so that the information which relates to the at least some of the physical checks which have been processed at the first check processing station can be viewed on either the physical display of the electronic label or the physical display of the first check processing station.

40. (new) A check processing apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the electronic label includes a first manually-operable button electrically coupled to the processor and for, when manually operated, directs the processor to cause the physical display of the electronic label to display information in sequential screens.

41. (new) A check processing apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the electronic label includes a second manually-operable button electrically coupled to the processor and for, when manually operated, allows an operator to send a signal to the first communication interface.

42. (new) A check processing apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the electronic label further includes an alerter electronically coupled to the processor and for, when driven by the processor, provides an audible alert signal.

43. (new) A check processing apparatus for enabling an operator to physically transport physical checks from a first check processing station which sorts physical checks into a plurality of physical sorting locations and which provides information relating to sorted

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physical checks to a second check processing station which encodes magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codelines onto physical checks, the check processing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of physical check document trays for (i) containing physical checks which have been sorted into the plurality of physical sorting locations at the first check processing station, (ii) allowing physical checks to be physically moved from each of the plurality of physical sorting locations into a corresponding one of the plurality of physical check document trays, and (iii) allowing the plurality of physical check document trays along with physical checks contained therein to be physically transported from the first check processing station to the second check processing station for encoding MICR codelines onto the physical checks at the second check processing station; and

a plurality of electronic labels associated with the plurality of physical check document trays such that each of the plurality of electronic labels is affixed to a corresponding one of the plurality of physical check document trays, each of the plurality of electronic labels including (i) a physical display for displaying a visual message, (ii) communication circuitry for receiving electronic messages which have been wirelessly transmitted from a communication interface of the first check processing station, and (iii) a processor for causing the physical display to display a visual message which is based upon at least one electronic message which has been received from the communication interface of the first check processing station to provide visual information which relates to at least some of the physical checks contained in the corresponding physical check document tray.

44. (new) A check processing apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the electronic label includes a first manually-operable button electrically coupled to the processor and for, when manually operated, directs the processor to cause the physical display to display information in sequential screens.

45. (new) A check processing apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the electronic label includes a second manually-operable button electrically coupled to the

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processor and for, when manually operated, allows an operator to send a signal to the communication interface of the first check processing station.

46. (new) A check processing apparatus according to claim 43, wherein the electronic label further includes an alerter electronically coupled to the processor and for, when driven by the processor, provides an audible alert signal.

47. (new) A check processing apparatus according to claim 43, wherein each of the plurality of electronic labels has a unique address.